TG 3972

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/31/97**

UA 124/97 **Fear of torture** **29 April 1997**

EAST TIMOR **Several East Timorese, names unknown**

Four, or possibly six, East Timorese have been arrested following the killing of a member of Indonesia's ruling party, Golkar, on 25 April 1997. The lack of information on the identities and whereabouts of the detainees has heightened Amnesty International's concern that they may be subjected to ill-treatment or torture in custody.

The circumstances leading to the death of the Golkar member remain unclear. According to media reports, an argument broke out between East Timorese and a member of Golkar at a concert organized by Golkar's youth wing on 25 April in eastern Baucau. Security forces fired into the air to break up the dispute. A 29-year-old man, who had suffered gunshot wounds and had been beaten, died. Local officials are quoted as denying that the man was shot by the security forces. The East Timor Governor, Abilio Osorio Soares, is quoted by Agence France Presse (AFP) as saying that "[h]e was allegedly killed by a group of people who oppose the government, Golkar and the armed forces". The East Timor Police Chief, Lt. Col. Yusuf Mucharam, blamed the killing on Fretilin, the armed wing of the East Timorese separatist movement, who wanted to discredit the armed forces.

Amnesty International opposes the killing of civilians by armed opposition groups as well as by government security forces and urges the government to implement an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of the Golkar member so that those responsible can be brought to justice. However, the organization is concerned that anyone arrested for their suspected involvement in the killing should be treated in accordance with international human rights standards.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

East Timorese alleged to be connected with the East Timorese resistance who are taken into military and police custody continue to be at risk of torture and ill-treatment, particularly during interrogation. Safeguards against the use of torture and other violations of detainees' rights, provided for under Indonesia's Code of Criminal Procedures, are often ignored by the military and the police. Detainees are routinely denied access to legal counsel and to their families, heightening the risk of torture and ill-treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia or English or your own language:
- acknowledging with regret the death of the 29-year-old man on 25 April, explaining that you oppose killing of civilians by both armed opposition groups and governments;
- calling on the authorities to provide information about the identities and the exact whereabouts of the individuals detained since the killing;
- reminding the authorities of their obligation to ensure that none of the detainees are subjected to ill-treatment or torture and urging that they be provided with access to lawyers and to members of their families.

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APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for East Timor
Lt. Col. Mucharam
Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili
East Timor (Indonesia)
Telegrams: Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor
Salutation: Dear Lt. Col Mucharam

Military Commander Region IX/Udayana
(Covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East Timor)
Major General Rivai
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar, Bali
Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX, Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major General Rivai

COPIES TO:

National Commission on Human Rights
Komisi Nasional Hak Asazi Manusia (Komnas HAM)
Alex Refialy SH
Jalan Dr Antonio de Carveho
Dili, East Timor
(Indonesia)

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 June 1997.